

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 ACDA-12 HA-05 AID-05 IO-13 /111 W

-----096230 080610Z /13

R 071310Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO /SECSTATE WASHDC 229

INFO AMEMASSY TEHRERAN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L 5885

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, CG, IR

SUBJECT: ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR TO IRAN RESIGNS

REF: TEHERAN 5278

1. FBIS JUNE 3 QUOTING AFP, REPORTED THAT ZAIRE'S AMBASSADOR TO IRAN, MBEKA MAKOSSO, HAD ANNOUNCED HE WAS RESIGNING HIS POST, "FOR PERSONAL REASONS." ON JUNE 4, FBIS QUOTED ANOTHER AFP REPORT TO THE EFFECT THAT MBEKA HAD RESIGNED IN PROTEST OVER THE ARMED INTERVENTION IN SHABA. IN EXPLAINING HIS RESIGNATION MBEKA DECRIED THE "SLAUGHTER" IN SHABA, STATED THAT THE LOSS OF LIFE COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED, AND CONCLUDED THAT IF ZAIRE DID NOT SOLVE ITS OWN INTERN PROBLEMS, THESE PROBLEMS WOULD REOCCUR. THE FBIS REPORT CONCLUDED THAT AMBASSADOR MBEKA, WHO HAD ADDRESSED HIS REMARKS TO ZAIRE'S PRESIDENT MOBUTU, WAS LEAVING TEHERAN JUNE 4 FOR AN UNKNOWN DESTINATION.

2. EMBOFFS RECEIVED AN UNSUBSTANTIATED REPORT WHICH, IF TRUE, WOULD CORROBORATE THE FBIS STORY. ACCORDING TO A LOCAL SOURCE, THE FOREIGN

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MINISTRY RECEIVED A CABLE TODAY, JUNE 6, FROM AMBASSADOR MBEKA IN WHICH HE REPEATS THE SENSE OF HIS QUOTED REMARKS, RESIGNS AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, STATES HIS INTENTION TO JOIN THE FLNC (FRON POUR LIBERATION NATIONALE DU CONGO). EMBASSY WILL ATTEMPT TO CORROBORATE THIS REPORT.

3. MBEKA MAKOSSO ORIGINALLY FROM BAS ZAIRE, WAS ONE OF ZAIRE'S

(THEN THE CONGO) FIRST TECHNOCRATS, GENERALLY SERVING IN ECONOMIC POSTS AFTER INDEPENDENCE. HE ALSO SERVED AS THE CONGO'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE EC AND AMBASSADOR TO PARIS. IN 1972 HE WAS ZAIRE'S MINISTER OF NATIONAL ECONOMY. LEAVING THE NATIONAL ECONOMY MINISTRY IN THE SAME YEAR, HE WAS APPOINTED ZAIRE'S AMBASSADOR TO BONN AND SUBSEQUENTLY SERVED AS AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON (1973-1975). HE WAS RECALLED FROM WASHINGTON ABOUT THE SAME TIME THE U.S. AMBASSADOR WAS EXPELLED FROM ZAIRE IN 1975, AND SPENT ALMOST A YEAT AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WITHOUT A SPECIFIC ASSIGNEMTN. IN 1976 HE WAS SENT TO TEHRAN. HE HAD BEEN A LONG TIME COLLABORATOR OF PRESIDENT MOBUTU BEFORE HIS AMBASSADORIAL APPOINTMENTS.

4. COMMENT: AMBASSADOR MBEKA'S DEFECTION MAY BE UNIQUE IN ZAIRE'S DIPLOMATIC SERVICE. IN VIEW OF MBEKA'S PREVIOUS POSITIONS AND PREVIOUS RELATIONSHIP WITH MOBUTU, HOWEVER, HIS PUBLIC CONDEMNATION OF THE COURSE OF RECENT SHABA EVENTS COULD BE POLITICALLY SIGNIFICANT. END COMMENT.
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